

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 090472

R 101225Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1771

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USCINCEUR

USMRN SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: CURRENT OIL SITUATION

REF: ROME 12306

1. RISTAGNO, SENIOR MIN INDUSTRY ENERGY OFFICIAL, IN NOV 9  
CONVERSATION WITH US INDICATED COMPLETE DISARRAY WITHIN GOVT  
CIRCLES AND HIS OWN DISMAY OVER INABILITY GOI TO TAKE DECISIONS  
ON PETROLEUM PRODUCT RATIONING. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA  
OPENLY DEBATING SUCH PROSPECTS FOR PAST WEEK (REFTEL, AND A  
A NUMBER OF ITALY'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS HAVE TAKEN OR ARE PREPARING  
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SPECIFIC ACTIONS, GOI POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS REMAIN UNWILLING

AND UNABLE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNPOPULAR MEASURES.  
RISTAGNO POINTED WITH ADMIRATION TO CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN  
BY US AS EXPRESSED IN PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE OF NOVEMBER 7  
AND STEPS TAKEN BY OTHER EUROPEANS, SAYING THAT GOI UNFORTUNATELY  
INCAPABLE TO SUCH DECISIVENESS.

2. RISTAGNO NOTED THAT THERE NO LACK OF IDEAS AND PROPOSALS  
BEING THROWN ABOUT IN ITALY, BUT THAT MINISTERS CONTINUE TO SHUN  
ANY CONCRETE ACTION. THIS INDECISION GIVES RISE TO CONTRADICTORY  
PRESS REPORTS, SOME REASSURING, OTHERS ALARMIST, WHICH LEAVE  
PUBLIC BEWILDERED. RISTAGNO LEFT NO DOUBT THAT SUPPLY SHORT-  
FALLS UNAVOIDABLE, REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER CONTRARY REPORTS  
THERE MAY BE IN PRESS, AND THAT THE QUESTION IS ONLY WHETHER  
REDUCTIONS IN CONSUMPTION WILL BE EFFECTED IN ORDERLY OR DIS-  
ORDERLY WAY.

3. WHILE REGRETTING INCONVENIENCE TO POPULATION FROM HEATING  
OIL SHORTAGES THIS WINTER, RISTAGNO EXPRESSED GREATEST CONCERN  
FOR EFFECT OF ENERGY SHORTAGES UPON INDUSTRY -- IN PARTICULAR,  
FUEL OIL REQUIRED BY HEAVY INDUSTRY AND FOR GENERATION ELECTRIC  
POWER, AND NAPTH WHICH SERVES AS BASIS OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY.  
IF SUCH PROSPECTS MATERIALIZE, CAUSING PRODUCTION CUTBACKS AND  
UNEMPLOYMENT, RISTAGNO FORESEES GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT. HE EMPHASIZED LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN ITALIAN  
ENERGY SITUATION: NO PRODUCTION TO STIMULATE, NO COAL, AND LITTLE  
DHOST-TERM POSSIBILITY OF SWITCHING CONSUMERS TO NATURAL GAS, ALL  
OF WHICH ADD TO SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICAL GENERATING CAPACITY AND  
OVERLOADED POWER STATIONS.

4. COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NOV 6 EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
MEETING, RISTAGNO TERMS IT A SERIOUS BLOW TO OBJECTIVE OF ECONOMIC  
UNION. HIS REMARKS ON CURRENT ATMOSPHERE IN COMMISSION ECHOED THE  
GIST OF EC BRUSSELS 6377 -- I. E., THAT COMMISSION LEFT IN STATE  
OF EXTREME DISILLUSIONMENT AND UTTER CONFUSION, WITH EACH MEMBER  
STATE FENDING FOR ITSELF.

5. SITUATION FOR THIS WINTER WELL SUMMED UP BY ESSO OFFICIAL:  
BUY A SWEATER AND A BICYCLE.

6. DEPT PASS ME POSTS AS DESIRED. VOLPE  
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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ROME12397  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ROME 12306  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CURRENT OIL SITUATION  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005